

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 26-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 17, 26 and 29 are independent claims.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 17, 26 and 29 are amended and claims 34-37 are added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3 and 4 and paragraphs [0061], [0062] and [0172]. Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 26 are amended for form. Claims 26 and 32 are amended to recite "non-transitory."

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Najee-Ullah and Thomas at the personal interview held July 22, 2010, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

For example, during the personal interview, the support for the recited "operation detecting unit" is discussed. As discussed, the support may be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3 and 4 and paragraph [0172] of the originally filed specification.

The Office Action rejects claims 26 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 26 and 32 are amended to recite "non-transitory" to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156923 to Tanimoto in view of JP-A-2002-091856 to Shigeru and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,597,307 to Redford. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 17, 26 and 29 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. For example, claim 1 is amended to recite "the first circuit is activated in response to insertion of the portable operation member into the opening of the interface unit,

and the second circuit is activated in response to a mechanical operation of the portable operation member while the portable operation member is inserted in the opening of the interface unit." Claims 17, 26 and 29 are amended to recite similar subject matter. The applied references do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in the claims, as amended.

The Office Action recognizes that Tanimoto does not disclose the features of the first and second circuits recited in the claims. The Office Action asserts that Shigeru cures the deficiencies of Tanimoto. In particular, the Office Action asserts that operating Shigeru's touch panel keyboard discloses the recited mechanically operating the portable operation member. (See the Office Action at page 7.)

However, as argued in the previous Amendment and discussed during the personal interview, Shigeru's touch panel keyboard is a component of Shigeru's image formation equipment 2, and is not a part of the IC card. See Shigeru at Fig. 1 and paragraph [0017]. Thus, an operation on Shigeru's touch panel keyboard is not a mechanical operation on the IC card that is asserted to correspond to the recited portable operation member.

Also, it appears that the Office Action is asserting that operating on Shigeru's touch panel keyboard would inherently be an operation on the IC card. However, even if under this assumption, such an operation on the IC card would be electric or electronic, but not mechanical. Thus, even if under this assumption, Shigeru still does not disclose a mechanical operation on the IC card ("portable operation member").

For at least the above reasons, Shigeru does not cure the deficiencies of Tanimoto. Also, Redford fails to cure the deficiencies of Tanimoto. Thus, the applied references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1, 17, 26 and 29.

Claims 2-16, 27, 28 and 30-33 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 17, 26 and 29, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

For example, claim 30 recites "depression." As discussed during the personal interview, the applied references do not disclose or render obvious this additional subject matter recited in claim 30.

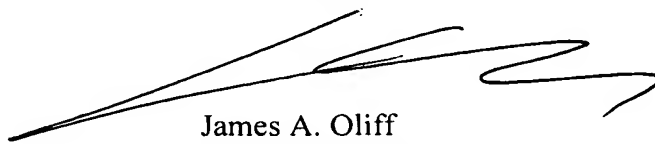
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 34-37 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 17, 26 and 29, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, as discussed during the personal interview, the applied references do not disclose or render obvious the operation detecting unit is part of the portable operation member recited in claim 34 and similarly recited in claims 35-37.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 and 26-37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: August 17, 2010

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